

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application with the following list of claims, with deletions shown in strikethrough and additions shown in underline:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) ~~A system for generating an~~ An assembler for a target microprocessor, the ~~system~~ assembler comprising:

a descriptor file containing information descriptive of the instruction set of said target microprocessor and a translation device for translating assembly language into machine language as an output wherein the translation device comprises a fetching device for acquiring data from said descriptor file and a control device receiving said data from said fetching device and containing the output of said translation device to conform to the architecture of said instruction set.

2. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ assembler of claim 1 wherein the descriptor file further comprises syntax information for each instruction, and the translation device translates each instruction on the basis of said syntax information.

3. (Currently amended) ~~The system~~ A system for assembling a machine language program, comprising the assembler of claim 1 and further comprising a data capture device having an input for accessing the instruction set of said target microprocessor and having an output, wherein said output comprises said descriptor file.

4. (Currently amended) ~~The system~~ A system for assembling a machine language program, comprising the assembler of claim 1 and further comprising a linker, wherein the system has a data transfer device outputting selected data fetched from said descriptor file to said linker, whereby said linker uses said output data to modify the translated output of said system.

5. (Currently amended) A method of assembling a machine language program for a target microprocessor comprising:

providing a descriptor file containing information descriptive of the instruction set of said target microprocessor;

translating assembly language instructions into machine language wherein the translation set comprises

acquiring data from said descriptor file; and

constraining the machine language to conform to the architecture of said instruction set, thereby assembling the machine language program for the target microprocessor.

6. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5 wherein said descriptor file further contains syntax information for each instruction of the instruction set, and said translating step comprises transliterating each assembly language instruction using said syntax information.

7. (Original) A method of preparing a program executable on a target microprocessor comprising:

capturing data from the instruction set of said target microprocessor thereby forming a descriptor file containing information descriptive of said instruction set;

providing assembly language instructions for said target microprocessor;

translating each assembly language instruction into a corresponding machine language output; and

using data from said descriptor file, constraining the machine language output to conform to the architecture of said instruction set.

8. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a program executable on a microprocessor, comprising:

providing plural program modules, at least one of said modules having one or more instructions including external symbols, wherein external symbols have values which cannot be determined without reference to another program module;

providing a descriptor file containing information descriptive of the instruction set of said target microprocessor;

translating assembly language instructions into machine language wherein the translation step comprises

acquiring data from said descriptor file;

constraining the machine language to conform to the architecture of said instruction set;

and further comprising binding external symbols to addresses using data selected from said descriptor file, thereby preparing the program executable on the microprocessor.